



City of Ridgecrest Police Department

100 W. California Ave. • Ridgecrest, CA 93555 • 760.499.5100 • fax 760.371.1674

Ronald N. Strand, Chief of Police

Press Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: 03/12/2016

TYPE OF INCIDENT: "SHOULDER TAP" OPERATION

Consumption of alcoholic beverages by persons under 21 years of age is heavily associated with crimes such as driving under the influence (DUI), batteries, sexual assaults, and other alcohol related incidents.

The Ridgecrest Police Department has identified four main methods in which offending minors obtain alcohol:

- Minor purchases alcohol from off-sale establishments.
- "Shoulder Tap"- Adult purchases alcohol for minor at or near an off-sale establishment.
- Another minor or adult gives alcohol to minor.
- Minor steals alcohol.

On 03/12/16, The Ridgecrest Police Department conducted a Shoulder Tap operation to educate the public and to reduce minor access to alcohol.

- **SHOULDER TAP** is a common method used by persons under age 21 to solicit a person to purchase and furnish them with alcoholic beverages. The Shoulder Tap Program is an enforcement program that ABC and local law enforcement agencies use to detect and deter shoulder tap activity. During the program, a minor decoy solicits adults outside ABC licensed stores to buy the minor alcohol. Any person seen furnishing alcohol to the minor decoy is arrested (either cited or booked) for furnishing alcohol to a minor (a violation of Section 25658(a) Business and Professions Code).

One subject was arrested for buying/furnishing alcohol to a minor. Another subject was arrested for a misdemeanor warrant.

This operation was funded by a grant from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC).

The Ridgecrest Police Department and ABC believe that aggressive enforcement mixed with public education will successfully limit the access of alcohol to minors and improve the quality of life in Ridgecrest.

Prepared By: Sgt. Justin Dampier

RONALD N. STRAND - Chief of Police
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